

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

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1. (Currently Amended) ~~In an audio-rendering device, a~~ method comprising:
receiving at ~~an~~ [[the]] audio-rendering device, data comprising digital audio data transmitted across a network from ~~an audio~~ a host;
determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded ~~according to one of at least two coding schemes;~~
selecting a decoding scheme based on [[the]] one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded, if the determining determines that the received digital audio data is encoded;
decoding the encoded digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme, if the determining determines that the received digital audio data is encoded;
and
~~converting~~ preparing the received digital audio data ~~to analog audio~~ for output.
↓
 2. (Canceled)
 3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein preparing the received digital audio data for output comprises converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output. ~~further comprising encoding the digital audio data at the audio host.~~
 4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded according to one of the at least two coding schemes comprises determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded according to coding schemes including mp3, wav, au, and aiff.

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5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein receiving digital audio data comprises receiving a plurality of digital audio data segments and reconstructing the digital audio data from the received plurality of digital audio data segments.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two coding schemes comprises identifying an indicator code included within at least one of the plurality of digital audio data segments.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]]3, further comprising:
determining whether the received digital audio data is compressed; and
if the received digital audio data is determined to be compressed, then
decompressing the compressed digital audio data based upon the selected decoding scheme.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, further comprising providing as output the analog audio to an amplification device.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the digital audio data is received across at least one of a plurality of networks including a phoneline network, a powerline network, and a HomeRF network.

10. (Currently Amended) A[[n]] special purpose audio-rendering device comprising:
a network interface to receive digital audio data transmitted over a network from an audio host;
a processor coupled with the network interface to:
determine whether the received digital audio data is ~~encoded~~ compressed;
~~according to one of at least two coding schemes~~;
select a decoding scheme based on [[the]] one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded, if the received digital audio data is determined to be compressed; and

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decode the encoded digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme, if the received digital audio data is determined to be compressed; and

a converter coupled to the processor to convert the received digital audio data to analog audio for output ~~to a speaker proximate the audio-rendering device.~~

11. – 13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The special purpose audio-rendering device according to claim 10, further comprising a read only memory coupled to the processor to store at least one CODEC.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A residential network audio system comprising:
a host device disposed in a first location to transmit digital audio data over a network; [[and]]

an audio bridging device ~~an audio-rendering device~~ disposed in a second location, the audio bridging device communicatively coupled [[with]] to the host device via the network[[,]] to receive the digital audio data transmitted from the host device, to determine whether received digital audio data is encoded ~~according to one of at least two coding schemes~~, to select a decoding scheme based on [[the]] one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded, to decode the received digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme, and to convert the received digital audio data to analog audio for output ~~to a speaker proximate the audio-rendering device~~; and

stereo equipment communicatively coupled to the audio bridging device, the stereo equipment to amplify the analog audio.

17. (Canceled)

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18. (Previously Presented) The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the network comprises a network including at least one of a phoneline network, a powerline network, and a HomeRF network.

19. (Currently Amended) The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the ~~audio-rendering device~~ audio bridging device is further disposed to:
determine whether the received digital audio data is compressed; and
decompress the compressed digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme.

20. (Original) The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the digital audio data is transmitted according to the real-time transport protocol (RTP).

21. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine readable medium having a plurality of machine readable instructions stored thereon, ~~wherein when the instructions are executed by a processor, the instructions subscribe the processor to that~~ when executed by the machine, cause the machine to:

receive digital audio data;

determine whether the received digital audio data is encoded ~~according to one of~~
~~at least two coding schemes;~~

select a decoding scheme based on [[the]] one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded, if the received digital audio data is determined to be encoded;

decode the encoded digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme, if the received digital audio data is determined to be encoded; and

~~convert~~ prepare the received digital audio data ~~to analog audio~~ for output ~~to a~~
~~speaker.~~

22. (Canceled)

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23. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 21, wherein receiving the digital audio data further comprises receiving the digital audio data transmitted across a local area network from a host device. ~~the machine readable instructions that, when executed, subscribe the processor to receive audio data comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the processor to receive digital audio data transmitted across a network from an audio host.~~

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
providing an indication, within at least one of a plurality of data segments, whether digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two audio coding schemes; and

transmitting the plurality of data segments across at least one of a plurality of networks including a home phoneline network, a powerline network, and a HomeRF network to an audio-rendering device.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein providing the indication, within the at least one of the plurality of data segments, whether the digital audio data is encoded according to the one of the at least two audio coding schemes comprises providing an indicator code within the at least one of the plurality of data segments.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 26, further comprising:
selecting the one of the two coding schemes based on the identified indicator code.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein selecting the one of the two coding schemes based on the identified indicator code comprises:
accessing a lookup table that includes entries for the at least two coding schemes;
comparing the identified indicator code to the entries in the lookup table; and

C1 identifying an entry in the lookup table that corresponds to the indicator code, wherein the entry is the coding scheme by which the received digital audio data is encoded.

C2 29. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein preparing the received digital audio data for output comprises converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output.

30. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output comprises converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output to a speaker proximate the audio-rendering device.
